

CLAIMS

1. A device for the automatic hauling of very long
5 elongate objects, characterized in that it comprises at least:

- traction means able to move translationally and in their movement driving the object that is to be hauled, the drive being achieved by friction,
- 10 - gripping means for keeping the traction means and the object that is to be hauled continuously in contact, this being achieved over at least a section of the object, and these gripping means being given a relative movement with respect to the hauled object, in a direction opposite to the direction of hauling,
- means for actuating the traction means and the gripping means in a coordinated manner; these means performing separate functions which 20 collaborate in order to ensure continuous traction on the object that is to be hauled, and good distribution of stress over its surface, the entire device having a stationary position.

25 2. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the traction means comprise two running strips (12) made of a material with good adhesion, these strips coming into contact with the object (10) that is to be hauled.

30 3. The device as claimed in one of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the gripping means comprise a chassis (114) able to move rotationally about the axis of traction of the object, this chassis comprising at 35 least one belt (110) stretched between two pulleys and one of the strands of which is helically wound around the running strips (12) and around the object (10) that is to be hauled so as to keep the running strips and

the object that is to be hauled in contact.

4. The device as claimed in claim 3, characterized in
that the belt (110) is made up of elastic fibers.

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5. The device as claimed in claim 3, characterized in
that the relative movement of the gripping means is
achieved by rotating the chassis (114), which causes
the belt (110) to wind around the object (10) that is
10 to be hauled and around the running strips (12) via one
of its ends, and to unwind simultaneously from the
other end.

6. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in
15 that the means for actuating the traction means and the
gripping means are driven by a hydraulic motor.

7. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in
that the means for actuating the traction means and the
20 gripping means are driven by an electric motor.